

# MEDIA ADVISORY

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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**sustainindy**

### **DPW TO “MAKE A SPLASH” WITH INDIANAPOLIS STUDENTS**

*4th Annual Citywide Water Festival to Educate, Engage Fourth and Fifth Graders*

INDIANAPOLIS – Nearly 275 fourth and fifth grade students will participate in the Indianapolis Department of Public Works’ fourth annual “Make a Splash Indianapolis” water festival field trip tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 16, at Riverside Park.

At “Make a Splash Indianapolis,” students rotate among five hands-on, interactive learning stations, where they learn about wastewater treatment, storm water pollution and other water quality issues.

“We’re excited that three new schools are participating in this year’s event,” said Department of Public Works (DPW) Director David Sherman. “The more young people we can educate, the better. As the city works to improve water quality and quality of life in Indianapolis neighborhoods, we believe it is crucial to educate children about water resources to encourage a lifelong dedication to protecting and respecting our waterways.”

**WHAT:** “Make a Splash Indianapolis” Water Festival

**WHO:** Students from three Indianapolis schools—Abraham Lincoln Elementary, Acton Elementary and Deer Run Elementary.

Office of Sustainability Director Kären Haley will emcee the event.  
DPW Chief Engineer Steve Nielsen will speak during the lunch.

**WHEN:** Friday, Oct. 16, 2009  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** Riverside Park, 2420 Riverside Park, Indianapolis

In the event of rain, the event will be held inside the Family Recreation Center at Riverside Park.

**WHY:** The purpose of “Make a Splash Indianapolis” is to teach students about a range of water issues, from ecology and pollution prevention to wastewater treatment and water stewardship.

**BEST VISUALS:** Available 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. and from 12:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. “A-Maze-ing Water” is a maze representing drainage pipes, where students act like water and run through the pipes, picking up different kinds of pollution (such as pet waste and fertilizer) before emptying into a stream.

*(more)*

## **STATION DESCRIPTIONS:**

A-Maze-ing Water – Students learn about nonpoint source pollution and how actions at home can affect water quality.

Macroinvertebrate Mayhem – Students play a game of tag to illustrate how macroinvertebrate populations demonstrate the health of a stream.

Flakes in the Water – Students complete an experiment to learn about filtration and the drinking water treatment process.

Oh No! Sewer Overflow! – Students learn about raw sewage overflows and the wastewater treatment process and develop a strategy for accommodating increasing quantities of wastewater.

Tunnel Vision – Students learn about tunneling under the city and how this is an option to prevent raw sewage overflows.

Mayor Greg Ballard launched SustainIndy and created the Office of Sustainability in October of 2008. Both represent an innovative enterprise aimed at delivering long-term cost savings to the city, building the local economy, improving our quality of life and enhancing our environmental and public health. Its efforts are designed to aggressively move Indianapolis forward in making it one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit [www.sustainindy.org](http://www.sustainindy.org).

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